

CENTRALLY MANAGED AND DISTRIBUTED APPLICATIONS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

- A method and system thereof for distributing, implementing and managing applications on computer systems, in particular client computer systems coupled to server computer systems in a network. A client-based shell program downloads and installs text-based files, such as files that are written using an Extensible Markup Language (XML) syntax. The XML files define different components (objects) of an application. The shell program meshes the XML files to create the application. The application can be updated by downloading and installing a new version of an XML file. The application can be executed on a client computer system with or without a network connection to a server computer system. The application can also be executed on the client computer system while waiting for a response from the server to a preceding request. Thus, the functionality of a "fat" client is provided in a "thin" client.